

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

Tsunetaro Miyakoda

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations*

*of the National Christian Council of Japan*

Editors:

Kaname Tsukahara

Robert W. Northup

**CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 24-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN**

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 151

August 1, 1959

## In These Pages

FCM Centennial Conference: "God's Way with a People" . . . . .	1
AVACO News Release. . . . .	4
Education Association of Christian Schools Summer Meet, Conference	5
Summer High School Camps. . . . .	5
Kyodan Social Action Committee Studies Projected Defense Treaty .	6
BRIEF NOTES:	

## FCM CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE: "God's Way with a People"

Celebrating the Centennial Year of Protestant Christianity in Japan, 205 registered delegates attended the Fellowship of Christian Missionaries annual conference at ICU, July 21 - 24. Housing at the university also enabled families to attend, so that actual attendance was higher than the number of registered delegates. A special nursery school was formed for children, under the direction of Mrs. Donald Orth, encouraging both parents to attend all meetings.

In probably the most ably planned program of its history, the FCM considered Christianity in Japan: Past, Present and Future under the guidance of Luke 1.68, "God's Way With a People". The Rev. James Cogswell, President (Presbyterian Church, U.S., and Professor at Nagoya's Kinjo University), outlined the conference procedure on the opening night, July 21. Each day's program was opened by worship and Bible study on the book of Philippians led by the Rev. Douglas Webster (Educational Secretary, Church Missionary Society, London). Each of the following days (Wed-Fri) were given to the three parts of the theme (Past, Present, Future) with a main address followed by small working groups as discussion centers. Each group brought two questions back to the main meeting and presented them to a panel of three, one Japanese churchman or leader, one missionary specialist, and a third selected member.

The Theme for Wednesday was "Appraising the Christian Past" and featured an address by Dr. Richard Drummond (fraternal worker of the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A., serving in Kamakura) on "100 Protestant Years in Japan". Noting that even today the Japanese church is a







"diaspora", having no sociological unity, so that not only the Christian community but the Christian family is a rarity, one can see more clearly what tremendous vision and courage the great individuals had in the Meiji period. They lived in a society which knew no freedom, for real freedom has been realized only since 1945.

Too, Christianity came to a people in great physical need: There were no hospitals; one saw no lame people since all such were destroyed at birth; blindness was common; and one-third of the people were marked by small-pox.

Recalling the earlier, Roman Catholic work, he commented upon the clear gift to converted Christians in that period of faith in the resurrection and future life. In contrast, the present day church makes burdens and suffering foremost, and this is possibly because its messengers have not known the benefits of Christ or cannot communicate them adequately. One must remember, too, he concluded, that the Jesuit fathers felt that next to the salvation of their own souls, their only aim was the salvation of other souls. We, too, must see how much we stand in need of God's mercy.

In an afternoon lecture on "The Apostolate", Dr. R. Pierce Beaver (University of Chicago) suggested that one great confusion in nineteenth century missions was caused by millenarianism, i.e. the initial thrust of missions was motivated by the glory of God, love to Christ, and concern for men, with God bringing the harvest. The millenarian emphasis on saving souls tended to displace the work of the Holy Spirit by men's own activity.

Delegates were officially welcomed to ICU at a President's Tea, with Dr. Glen Bruner acting as host in the absence of Dr. Yuasa, and later Dr. Webster presented an unscheduled talk on spiritual healing in the Church of England.

At the memorial service in the evening, the honored speaker was Dr. Charles Iglehart, emeritus professor, Union Seminary, N.Y., and former beloved Methodist missionary in Japan.

On Thursday (theme: "Evaluating Our Times") the major address was given by the Rev. B. L. Hinchman (Field Secretary, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, Japan), with this picture of the church in Japan emerging: Christians number about 700,000. of whom nearly 10% are not regular church members but are professing Christians; the majority of the 1,900 missionaries have no relationship with the older churches (about 15% are IBC related) and 29 of the 144 missionary societies are of European origin. The positive marks of Christian faith in Japan include elevation of the status of women, abolition of legalized prostitution, and increasing recognition of the rights of laboring people. Christians have also gained national important offices, as witnessed by the 18 Christian members of the Diet (as of May, 1958; this number was lessened by the recent death of the Socialist Speaker of the House Matsuoka). But notable debits in the Christian effort include (1) absence of the art of communication and (2) of religious education in seminary training and (3) neglect of the pastoral ministry.

In the next century, Mr. Hinchman concluded, (1) the Christian







Church should give leadership to the cause of peace. In this most peace hungry nation, it is tragic that labor unions and leftist movements capture this leadership. Romans 3.17 is instructive here. (2) Missionaries should do more in personal evangelism.

Laymen made a particular contribution in the afternoon "Interviewing the Specialists" session. Panelists included Mr. Yoshio Ozawa, businessman; Mr. George Togasaki, president, Japan Times Board of Directors and ICU Board of Trustees chairman; Dr. Valdo Vigielmo, professor of Japanese Literature, ICU and Tokyo Woman's Christian College. In particular, Mr. Togasaki emphasized that the FCM missionaries are failing to get their message to the press, in both the Japanese and English newspapers. This failure seems due to the absence of a full-time worker who has created a working relationship with the editors of various newspapers.

The Rt. Rev. Michael Yoshiro, presiding bishop of the Seikokai, gave new perspective to the question, "Why We Want Missionaries in Japan" pointing to the two-fold task of missionaries as (1) helping the Japanese church to build Christian character and to demonstrate Christian character and (2) giving a wider bond of fellowship to the Japanese church, pushing the Japanese church beyond its narrow-minded, pessimistic, legalistic idea of safety first. In a wider view, he noted the value of Christian institutions of learning, urging the missionary to relate himself to some church or institution which could continue his work if he leaves that place, and felt that at no time in the foreseeable future could the Japanese rural church be independent. (Many listeners disagreed with this point.) The most controversial point was the suggestion that the church should have a service of prayer for the dead, apparently in view of the deep feeling which people in the Japanese family have toward their ancestors.

On Friday (theme: "Anticipating the Next Century"), the Rev. Percy Luke, Japanese Evangelistic Band member stationed in Kobe, gave the main address. Assuming that the missionary must work within the limits set by the Japanese church, the question arises, "What place if any will the foreign missionary have in the next century?" The post-war expectancy of the Japanese church toward missionaries has often turned to disappointment, he noted. Recognizing this, one who works in Japan must reconcile his sense of calling to proclaim the gospel with the limitations set by the national church.

As a measure of appreciation for his theological and cultural sensitivity, the Rev. Kenneth E. Heim, senior priest of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Japan, was chosen to summarize the mind of the conference. Acknowledging the tremendous variety of material presented he suggested principally that the missionary must love Japan and listen to Japan. Mission means the Church on the move, from God to the world. The whole church needs the whole church and the missionary is important as liaison between the west and Japan. Our rôle in the second century may also be as a catalyst in the process of indigenization. The missionary ought also to acknowledge gratefully his position as a persona grata in Japan. He must build relationships of interdependence with Japanese colleagues as equals. Looking backward, one can only feel that a miracle of history occurred, for there is such a rich matrix of memory, tradition and custom within and surrounding the church, in Japan. There is no more







exciting place in the world than Japan -- it is more cosmopolitan than Paris. Possibly the next century will see a new form of Christianity emerge through the inter-action of Christianity with the Asian culture and with the result of correction of western excesses and a richer doctrine than ever before, he concluded.

Other notable features of the conference were the Tuesday morning pre-conference tour of religious points of interest, arranged and directed by the Rev. William P. Woodard and the business meeting on Thursday. In the latter, the financial and printing status of the Japan Christian Quarterly was the main concern, with an overwhelming desire expressed to make the journal independent financially and in its publication. Officers elected to head the FCM for next year are: President, Dr. William Bray, Kansei Gakuin; Vice president, the Rev. Anders Hoaas, Kore; Secretary, Miss Mary McCrimmon, Kyoto; and Treasurer, the Rev. Calvin Parker, Kanazawa.

The Rev. Norman Nuding was conference chairman, assisted by James Cogswell, Richard Merritt, Richard Drummond, and Raymond Jennings. Arrangements were made by the Rev. George Hays and his committee, with music under the direction of Mrs. Howard Haines. Exhibits were arranged by the Rev. Richard Merritt and Mrs. Kiyo Takeda Cho, with memorial material prepared by Mrs. Darley Downs.

#### AVACO NEWS RELEASE:

##### Book of Acts Films Adapted

From August, the Audio Visual Activities Commission (AVACO) will record lip synchronized soundtracks in Japanese for the series of ten color films produced by Family Films for the Southern Baptists on the Book of Acts. These films belong to the mission of the United Lutheran Church of America which is providing half of the budget of approximately twelve hundred dollars. If these films are well received, AVACO is planning to purchase a set of the films on which the same soundtrack tapes may be used. The recording is done by the magnastripe technique, which involved recording on a thin metallic coating on the soundtrack side of the film. It is added especially for the purpose of recording a second soundtrack to films.

##### Records of AVACO Radio Chorus

In the early Fall a four 45 RPM record album of the AVACO Radio Chorus singing various hymns, produced by the Victor Company of Japan, will go on sale for about \$5.70. The records include such hymns as "Thy Way, Not Mine, O Lord", "Come Thou Disconsolate", and "What a Friend We Have In Jesus". In addition, four hymns recorded by chimes and without the lyrics, are included for churches which broadcast music from their towers. The release of this album has been delayed due to recent damage by fire to the Victor studios.

##### Curriculum Picture Cards Success

Small picture and scripture text cards which are correlated to the kindergarden curriculum of the National Christian Council, have been produced by AVACO, one for each Sunday of the year and a birthday card.







These have been extremely well received, with over 12,000 sets sold, thus assuring the financial success of this project. It is planned that this will become a regular service of AVACO as a part of the committee's plan to provide audio visual materials at each level of the widely-used NCC unified curriculum.

### Many Rejected for Summer Workshop

The tenth annual audio visual workshop sponsored by AVACO and held at Naka-Karuizawa, July 22-25, was attended this year by approximately four hundred students and leaders of church schools, Christian schools, Kindergartens, and day nurseries. As usual, over five hundred applications were received, but the number which can attend is limited by the capacity of the two hotels, Hoshino and Shiotsubo. This year's workshop included, in addition to lectures on such subjects as "The Central Point of Christianity" and "Audio Visual Aids in the Education of Small Children", twelve different practical workshop courses. Among these were "Story-telling", "Puppet Operation and Script Development", "Use of Film-strip, and Film Projectors", "Broadcasting Evangelism", "The Production and Use of the Illuminated Kamishibai", as well as, the Church School Curriculum and Audio Visual Materials". Bishop Augustine Takase was chairman of the conference.

### EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS SUMMER MEET, CONFERENCE

Registrants for three sections of the annual Education Association of Christian Schools summer meeting and conference totalled 500. The three divisions -- religious educators, summer school, and office staff -- meeting at Tozanso, Gotenba, from July 30 to August 6. Because of the centennial celebration of the Protestant mission in Japan, particular note will be taken of the role of the mission school in the history of Japan. 208 schools which belong to this league are closely related to the movement of Christian evangelism and this year's emphasis has attracted a record number at the meeting from these associated with the schools.

In the first division, (July 30 - Aug. 1), related to religious education, the theme is "The Relevance of the Bible Today: Facing the Second Century". The main lecturers were Professor Yoshitaka of Tokyo Union Seminary, speaking on "The Main Problems of the Bible and this Era", and Professor Yamazaki of Doshisha University Theological Dept., "The Prophet and His Time". Small discussion groups for each age level of education will be held. The summer school division theme is "Mission of Christian School Education" and office staff training division is "Fellowship in the Lord".

### SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL CAMPS

On July 28, summer camps were opened at Lake Yamanaka YMCA camp site for high school young people, sponsored by the Kyodan. The 123 participants from July 28-31 gathered for early morning devotions and group exercise, followed by Bible study and discussion. Among the notable students present were Kimiko Teruya, 16 years of age, from Okinawa, and two blind students -- Mitsuharu Aiyoshi of Kofu and Sachiko Tamura of Utsunomiya. As a test case, one of the first camps in which blind students share with those who have normal eyesight, the extent to which real fellowship can be attained is being eagerly watched.







YODAN SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE STUDIES PROJECTED DEFENSE TREATY

The projected revision of the Defense Treaty between Japan and U.S.A. has spread from the Diet study groups to the street, with many groups signing petitions favoring or opposing it. The Kyodan Social Action Committee, led by Kazuo Nomoto, felt that an accurate understanding of the problem must be presented to the church, in order to take a wise stand toward it. Therefore, on July 23, a discussion group was sponsored at Ginza Church, to which Socialist Kanju Kato was invited as speaker. As a Diet member, he gave this opinion: the reason for the government's desire to revise the treaty is because of the United Nations Charter. American troops within Japan do not have the responsibility to defend Japan. From the standpoint of Japan's responsibility for defending itself, it is said that the reason for peace is the balance of power between the Western and Communist blocs but it seems rather that the actual reason is the desire of each nation for peace. This is evident in the three incidents -- Korea, Berlin, and Taiwan -- anyone of which could have been but did not develop into the fuse which lighted a war. Japan has discarded arms under her new constitution and cannot sign a defense treaty without violating it; and such a treaty seems unnecessary in the light of the real reason for the maintenance of world peace.

Three stages in the American occupation policy toward Japan were: democratize Japan; re-establish economic stability; and to strengthen American armed might. In case the treaty is revised, the Japanese Self-defense force must cooperate with American troops and must follow their direction. If the American forces make any movement from Japan, the Japanese forces could be sent overseas; as a mutual defense treaty there could be no withdrawal from the commitment.

The Socialist Party opposes revision at present, urging rather close observation of the international situation with clearer definition of individual self defense. He also discussed the relation between the Socialist Party and Communist Party as well as the problem of Russia and China.

The second meeting was scheduled for July 30, with a prominent Liberal Democrat Party member, Tokuji Tokonami, invited, and the third will be addressed by Dr. Nobunari Ukai of Tokyo University.

BRIEF NOTES:

The Rev. Masatake Fujita, former General Secretary of the N. C. C. Church School Division, plans to leave Yokohama on August 3 to take a Methodist pastorate in Denver, Colorado.

Applications are now being received for the Centennial Celebration banquet, under the direction of the NCC, to be held at the Japanese Youth Building on November 3. The Charge for the banquet is ¥500. Attendance is limited to 1200 and as tickets will be sold to the first applicants, early application is urged.







Commemorating the Christian Centennial, publication of a special edition of the Bible, cloth-bound, for ¥500, and of the Hymnal, deluxe binding with facing, at ¥500, have been announced by the Japan Bible Society and by the Kyobunkan.

Twenty-six contributors to KEEP (Kiyosato Educational Experiment project) will spend August in Japan. With the founder of KEEP, Paul Busch, Bishop Michael Yashiro of Kobe is co-sponsor and host. Following attendance at a convocation at St. Paul's University and a visit to St. Margaret's Girls' School, they will visit scenic points of Japan. From August 10 they will be lodged at the Seisen-Ryo in the KEEP project and will observe and participate in the Sixth Annual Country Fair. The group is being led by the Rev. Canon Irwin C. Johnson, Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

August 1, Hiroshima: The fifth World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs was opened with 52 delegates from 21 nations. Pre-conference interest in Japan was heightened by the place on the agenda of the proposed revision of the Japan-U.S. Security Pact. Because of this plan, the Liberal-Democratic Party denounced the meet as interference in politics. Many ken ("state") officials also withdrew supporting funds because of the public questioning of such an interest of the conference committee.

In early July, noted businessmen and leaders held the inaugural meeting of the Society for the Aid of the Jingu Kogakkan, with former Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida chosen president and International Trade and Industry Minister Hayato Ikeda as vice president. The Jingu Kogakkan, created in 1882, was brought under direction of the Ministry of Education in 1940 until its dissolution under the occupation in 1946. It is the only State-operated college for the Shinto priest-hood, about 90% of its 2000 graduates became priests while many of the others became secondary teachers.

Although the school properties were turned over to a secondary school and the alumni association activities forbidden, the association quietly continued during the occupation and became active at its end. However, the present movement is under the direction chiefly of non-alumni who see the re-institution of the school as necessary to save the moral basis of the people from communism and until they are fully ready for democracy. Present plans call for re-opening of the school by 1961 with an ultimate goal of ¥500 million. Japanese intellectuals are reportedly alarmed at this apparant return to "prewar Japan".

#### PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no issue published on August 15. The next issue will be issued on September 1.



